

200 AREA REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT

Background:

In 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed the 100, 200, 300, and 1100 Operational Areas of the Hanford Site on the National Priorities List (NPL) pursuant to the *Comprehensive Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980* (CERCLA). The 200 Area NPL, located near the center of the Hanford Site (also referred to as the Central Plateau), contains waste management facilities, inactive irradiated-fuel reprocessing facilities, inactive interim storage and staging facilities for irradiated fuel, and soil-contaminated waste sites that resulted from past discharges of waste to the ground and the burial of solid waste. There are also soil-contaminated sites that are associated with groups of underground waste storage tanks that are referred to as tank farms.

The objective of the 200 Area Remedial Action Project is to complete the cleanup of over 800 non-tank farm soil-contaminated waste sites consistent with Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestones and site-wide planning outcomes for the Central Plateau.

The major TPA milestones that address the 200 Area cleanup activities require site investigations and feasibility studies to be complete by 2008 and final remedial actions to be complete by 2018.

Current Status:

In 1999, the *200 Area Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Implementation Plan-Environmental Restoration Program* (DOE/RL-98-28, Rev. 0) was issued and addresses the investigation of soil-contaminated waste sites and discusses concepts and potential strategies for their eventual remediation. The 800+ soil-contaminated waste sites were grouped into 23 operable units for investigation. The operable units are contained within nine major Waste Site Groups.

In 1999, the first operable unit field investigation at the Gable Mountain and B-Ponds was begun. This year there is investigation work being performed for two operable units containing sites that received waste associated with the tank farms. Three other operable unit investigations are currently in the planning process.

In 2000, site planning established new criteria in the 200 Area that emphasize accelerating the investigation of waste sites that pose significant risk, maintaining compliance, and enhancing opportunities for integration between projects. To support this planning, the 200 Area Remedial Action Project negotiated accelerated investigations of tank-farm related waste site operable units and the carbon tetrachloride operable unit. In addition, the project has proposed that the operable unit investigation process be streamlined to focus on gathering sufficient information to make remedial decisions at the

waste group level instead of the operable unit level. This approach would reduce the number of operable units requiring investigation from 23 down to 12.

The 200 Area Remedial Action project also supports the full-scale testing and performance monitoring of surface barriers that are planned for use as remedial measures on the Hanford Site.



Collecting a sample from a test pit at the Gable Mountain Pond.

Issues:

- Realigning 200 Area TPA milestones to coincide with site planning.
- Establishing risk scenarios that are to be evaluated when developing remedial action recommendations

Accomplishments:

The 200 Area Remedial Action Project has completed:

- Defining the process and priority for investigating over 800+ soil-contaminated waste sites (through the Implementation Plan).
- The field investigation of the first operable unit defined under the Implementation Plan.
- The planning for five additional operable unit investigations.
- The acceleration of higher-risk operable unit investigations.
- The treatability testing of the most robust surface barrier planned for use on the Hanford Site.